

United States District Court
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	§	
	§	
v.	§	
	§	CRIMINAL ACTION NO. 3:22-CR-0390-S
JOSEPH GARZA (1)	§	
KEVIN MCDONNELL (2)	§	
JAMES RICHARDSON (3)	§	
CRAIG FENTON (4)	§	

AMENDED ORDER

On March 31, 2025, Defendant Richardson's Motion to Continue Pre-Trial/Trial Deadlines ("Motion") [ECF No. 74] was filed. Having reviewed the Motion, the Court **GRANTS** the Motion.

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7), the Court finds that (1) Defendants make this request knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily; (2) the Sixth Amendment right to counsel in a criminal proceeding requires a continuance; (3) the ends of justice served by the granting of a trial continuance outweigh the best interests of the public and Defendants in a speedy trial; (4) the continuance will provide the time needed for counsel to engage in the review, analysis, preparation, assimilation, and negotiation contemplated by the requirements of effective assistance of counsel under the Fifth and Sixth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution; (5) failure to grant a continuance in this case will likely result in a miscarriage of justice; and (6) the period of delay due to granting the Joint Motion is the period from the date of the Joint Motion through the date of the new trial setting, and this time is excludable under the Speedy Trial Act.

Accordingly, the Court vacates the current trial setting of June 9, 2025, and the Order entered on May 24, 2025 [ECF No. 68] and resets the trial and pretrial deadlines as follows.

1. **This case is set for trial** on this Court's docket beginning **September 8, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.** Counsel and all parties shall be ready for trial on that date. The parties shall comply with the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and the Local Criminal Rules of this Court except as expressly modified by this Order.

2. All **pretrial motions** shall be filed on or before **July 14, 2025**, and they must comply with Local Criminal Rule 47.1. *See* N.D. TEX. CRIM. R. 47.1. Discovery motions and motions for a bill of particulars shall be denied in their entirety unless they are limited to the specific matters actually in dispute, after conference with opposing counsel, as required by Local Criminal Rule 47.1(a).

3. Responses to any pretrial motions shall be filed on or before **July 28, 2025**, and any replies shall be filed on or before **August 4, 2025**.

4. All **pretrial materials** shall be filed on or before **August 18, 2025**. Specifically, by this date:

a. A **list of witnesses** shall be filed by each party, which divides the persons listed into groups of "probable witnesses," "possible witnesses," "experts/" and "record custodians"; states the name and address of each witness; and contains a brief narrative summary of the testimony to be covered by each witness. (Modification of Local Criminal Rule 16.1(b)).

b. A **list of exhibits and portions of depositions** to be offered at trial shall be filed by each party. In addition, each party shall number the listed exhibits with labels (which the parties must provide themselves), shall exchange a complete set of marked exhibits with opposing counsel, and shall deliver to the Court's chambers one hard copy and one digital copy of the marked exhibits (except for large or voluminous items that cannot be easily reproduced). (Modification of Local Criminal Rule 16.1(a)). **All documentary exhibits offered by the Government shall be submitted on a thumb drive at the conclusion of trial to the Court Reporter.**

c. On the day the case is set for trial, additional copies of the **list of witnesses and list of exhibits** (as required by Local Criminal Rules 16.1(a) and (b)) shall be delivered to the Court Reporter by each party.

d. **Requested jury instructions (annotated),¹ any motions in limine** (which must be limited to matters actually in dispute), and any **proposed voir dire questions** the Court is requested to ask during its examination of the jury panel and proposed findings in non-jury cases shall be filed by each party. (Modification of Local Criminal Rule 30.1).

e. A **written statement** shall be filed by each party setting forth: (i) the estimated **length of trial**; (ii) the status of any **plea-bargaining** negotiations; (iii) any **scheduling problems** which the attorneys, parties, or witnesses have during the trial docket; and (iv) **any additional matters** which would aid the Court in the disposition of this case.

f. **Trial briefs, if any**, shall be filed. In the absence of a specific order, trial briefs are not required but are encouraged. The briefs should focus on Fifth Circuit and Supreme Court authority on the issues the parties anticipate will arise at trial.

NOTE: Deadlines are dates for filing or delivery of pretrial materials, not mailing dates.

5. The **final pretrial conference** in this case is set for **August 29, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.**

Lead counsel must attend the pretrial conference. All pretrial motions not previously decided will be heard and resolved at that time, and procedures for trial will be discussed. Defendant(s) need not be present at the pretrial conference.

¹ "Annotated" means that **each** proposed instruction shall be accompanied by citation to statutory or case authority and/or pattern instructions. It is not sufficient to submit a proposed instruction without citation to supporting authority. As Fifth Circuit and Supreme Court cases are the only binding precedent on this Court, the parties should-to the extent possible-rely on these sources (and/or Fifth Circuit pattern instructions) in proposing jury instructions.

6. **NOTE: Sanctions may be imposed if these pretrial requirements are not met.**


If the Government does not timely file the pretrial materials, the case may be dismissed. Any defendant who does not timely file the required pretrial materials may not be permitted to present witnesses or exhibits at trial. Failure to list a witness or an exhibit may be grounds for exclusion of that testimony or exhibit, unless such testimony or exhibit is offered solely for impeachment. The use of rebuttal witnesses or exhibits shall be permitted if counsel could not have reasonably anticipated their need for use at trial.

7. In multi-defendant cases, any motions to continue the pretrial deadlines and/or the trial setting must include a certificate of conference with the Government and the attorneys for each defendant with whom the moving defendant is set for trial.

8. All counsel are directed to advise the Court **at least four (4) days before trial if a plea agreement has been reached.** If such an agreement has been reached, except in unusual circumstances where such cannot reasonably be done, **counsel must furnish an executed copy to the Court at least three (3) days before trial.** Counsel should be mindful that a last-minute trial cancellation inconveniences all of the citizens who have come to serve as jurors and wastes taxpayer money. To avoid such a cancellation, counsel should endeavor to complete plea negotiations prior to the date scheduled for trial.

SO ORDERED.

SIGNED April 16, 2025.



KAREN GREN SCHOLER
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE